



Document title	A Baltic Sea Region cooperation platform on pharmaceuticals – PA Hazards flagship
Code	4-2
Category	INF
Agenda Item	4 - State of the art review in the Baltic Sea region
Submission date	21.6.2017
Submitted by	PA Hazards of the EUSBSR
Reference	

Background

PA Hazards of the EUSBSR has been working with the issue of pharmaceuticals in the Baltic Sea environment since 2010. In 2014, the steering group decided to give pharmaceuticals increased attention in the coming years with the aim to facilitate implementation of local measures, as well as to support regional policy development.

In 2015, PA Hazards initiated a joint process with HELCOM to produce a regional status report, providing a baseline for development of projects and activities. Information about concentrations and effects of pharmaceutical substances in the Baltic Sea environment was published by PA Hazards as a background report in 2015¹, based on data collected by HELCOM Contracting Parties.

In December 2015, PA Hazards organized a project development workshop. As a result, two full scale transnational projects are now funded (MORPHEUS and CWPharma), and two seed money projects (GrePPP and MicroWasteBaltic). PA Hazards will continue to support these projects in their implementation, horizontal networking and dissemination of results to relevant policy stakeholders.

To do this, PA Hazards has set up a regional cooperation platform on pharmaceuticals. The platform has three pillars: projects, supporting activities and policy development (annex). It is coordinated by PA Hazards and partly funded by EU-ERDF Interreg Baltic Sea Region. The platform is a flagship under PA Hazards of the EUSBSR during the period 2017-2020. More info: www.swedishepa.se/hazards/pharmaceuticals.

It is foreseen and wished for that the PA Hazards BSR platform on pharmaceuticals and CG PHARMA will work closely together and find mutual synergies. The main focus of the platform is to support project implementation and policy development, rather than e.g. providing scientific data and supporting expert work in indicator development. The platform activities will support the work of CG PHARMA.

¹ <http://www.swedishepa.se/upload/in-english/cooperation/international-and-EU/internationally/multilateral-cooperation/baltic-sea/bkg-report-on-pharmaceutical-conc-and-effects-in-the-bs-2016-09-28.pdf>

Suggestion: Joint meeting/WS on pharmaceuticals late 2017, and/or back-to-back with HELCOM

PRESSURE-8. PA Hazards is planning a “kick-off” meeting for the platform, including all projects, in late 2017. CG PHARMA is invited to participate in this meeting at any level suitable. The ambition of the platform is to have an annual meeting/conference during the platform period 2017-2020, to support project implementation and policy development.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information on the Pharmaceuticals Platform and consider attending the suggested joint activities of CG Pharma and the Platform.



A Baltic Sea Region cooperation platform to reduce pharmaceuticals in the Baltic Sea Environment

Pharmaceutical residues in the Baltic Sea environment are causing concern in the whole region, even though the full impact for the marine environment is still unknown. To help prevent the problem, measures are needed on both national and regional level.

This new cooperation platform is intended to support the implementation of projects and other activities aiming to reduce emissions of pharmaceuticals to the Baltic environment, as well as to support regional policy development and stakeholder cooperation (fig 1). The platform is a flagship under Policy Area Hazards of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region during the period 2017-2020. The flagship is targeting both human and veterinary pharmaceuticals. Activities mainly focus on non-regulatory solutions.



Figure 1 Conceptual model of the main elements of the PA Hazards Baltic Sea Region cooperation platform on pharmaceuticals in the environment.



Projects

The platform clusters four transnational projects targeting the emission of pharmaceuticals to the Baltic from different angles, e.g. advanced waste water treatment, waste management, prescription routines and sustainable procurement criteria. Other projects may be added.

Supporting activities

Background information and baseline studies compiled in regional reports, stakeholder networks, workshops and conferences are examples of activities aimed at supporting project implementation and policy development in the region.

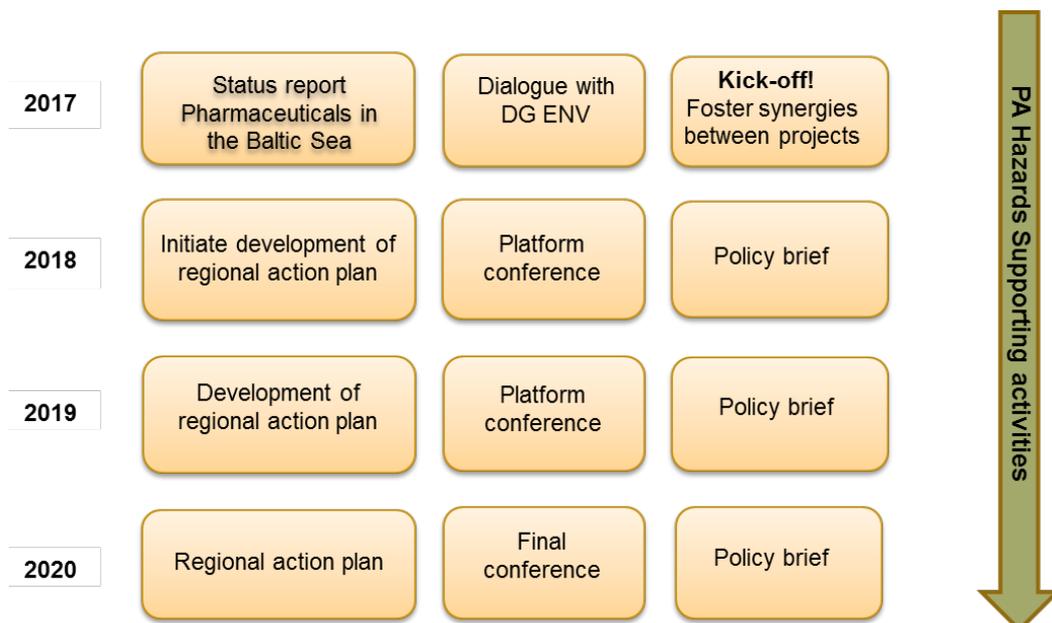
Policy development

The platform supports the development of regional policy, e.g. a regional strategies, guidelines and best practices, through project results and supporting activities. This is done in close cooperation with the HELCOM Correspondence Group on Pharmaceuticals (CG PHARMA). The platform also aims to support the European Commission Strategic approach to pharmaceuticals in the environment.

Coordination and funding

The platform is initially coordinated and funded by PA Hazards through the European Regional Development Fund Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme. Other relevant and engaged stakeholders are invited to apply to co-coordinate the platform activities with the assistance of PA Hazards.

Tentative work plan for the platform



More information about platform and projects: www.swedishepa.se/Hazards/Pharmaceuticals

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